Remarks

A telephonic interview with the Examiner is noted with appreciation and the interview summary was received. The Examiner requires a limitation on claim 1.

claim 1 now has been amended to include a lower limit of trivalent iron of 30% by weight of the spinel molecular weight. Claim 7 is canceled.

In a previous amendment, on page 5, it was pointed out that the molecular weights of spinels are determined by the atomic weights of the elements present in the spinels. A generic formula for spinels is AB2 O4. The molecular or formula weight of each spinel is calculated in each instance by multiplying the atomic weights of the elements by the number of atoms of each element in the spinel formula, and adding the products thus obtained.

Example:

The weight percentage of trivalent iron in the spinel MnFe2O4, is 2x55.9=111.8 divided by the molecular or formula weight calculated as explained above, times 100. In this specific case of MnFe2O4, with Mn and O having atomic weights of 54.9 and 16, respectively, the molecular or formula weight is calculated to be 54.9+55.9x2+16.0x4=230.7 and the weight percentage of trivalent Fe is 48.4% . The calculations cited above are based on standard stoichiometric principles known to the ordinary skilled in the art.

If the Examiner agrees that the weight percentage of trivalent iron is

derived from accepted stochiometric principles, would he then agree that the words "by weight" and "molecular weight" in amended Claim 1 can be deleted? If so, the Examiner is hereby requested to delete those words, as they would be superfluous.

Claims15-17 have been withdrawn. No new claims have been added.

Claims1-7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious in view of cited reference, Netherton 060. Netherton discloses the use of submicron size spinel as colorant when incorporated into plastics to produce transparent colored plastic . It mentions no irradiation at all. The transparent colored plastic can not age wine. The present invention uses epoxy resin as a carrier or medium and the wrapper is made of material including expanded synthetic resinous material, in forms of two half-shells to wrap around wine container, none of which are disclosed by Nethrerton. Above all, the present invention teaches a specific spectral range of far-infrared radiation, 18-30 microns, and weight percentage of trivalent iron, Fe+++, in B of spinel , AB2O4, of at least 30% for ageing wine.

Netherton discloses nothing about the preferred spectral range of far-infrared radiation used, nor the specific requirement of trivalent iron as claimed in the present invention. In view of the above, the present invention illustrates new and unexpected result of using spinel to age wine. The wrapper of this invention clearly demonstrates the different result from Neherton's. Therefore, Netherton cannot be obvious over the present invention as claimed. Please refer to U.S. vs Adams 148 USPQ 479.

In view of the above amendment, the claims as amended are patentably distinguished from Netherton's

It is believed the claims as amended are patentable . Withdrawal of rejections and reconsideration are requested, and an early notice of allowance of the claims would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted
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